Checking adulteration in petroleum products

†1616. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to check adulteration in the petroleum products in the country; and

(b) whether Government are considering to make some stringent law and effective enforcement mechanism like the Food Adulteration Prevention Act in order to check the growing pollution, adulteration and adverse effect damaging the vehicles, engines and machines etc. if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Stringent action is taken under the relevant guidelines which include cancellation of licences/suspension of supplies by oil companies, depending upon the gravity of the case.

Government is empowered to issue control orders under Essential Commodities Act to check instances of malpractices which include adulteration etc. The Control Orders issued so far authorise different functionaries of State Govt. to check and take corrective action for any malpractice under respective Control Order which includes penal action against defaulters.

Economic Viability of Kerosene Dealerships

1617. SHRI GHUFRANAZAM: Will the Ministerof PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how may kerosene dealerships are working below the economic viability limits;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated to make them economically viable for livelihood of dealers belonging to SC/ST and Defence personnels;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether new SKO/LDO dealerships in such areas are advertised where there are some dealerships working below selling limits; and

(d) whether Government would allow dealerships to be resited in case district quota of kerosene docs not allow these dealerships to be economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM **AND** NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) At present there are 565 SKO-LDO dealerships which are operating below 75 KL per month. As per the existing policy locations found economically viable as per the Oil Industry Norms are included in the marketing plan and advertised from time to time for selection of dealers through Dealer Selection Boards.

On commissioning of new SKO-LDO dealerships, including those belonging to SC/ST and Defence Category, a minimum allocation of 50 to 75 KL per month of SKO is given to the dealers. As and when additional allocation is made to all the districts, the extra allocation is given to low volume dealers to make them economically viable.

(d) At present there is no policy for resitement of SKO dealership.

Filling up of vacancies in reserved category

1618. SHRIMATI BASANTISARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of posts reserved for SCs/STs has been filled up in his Ministry during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the backlog for the posts reserved for SCs/STs are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the Statement. *(see* below)

(c) and (d) Do not arise.